Centennial Anniversary

OF THE

16

FOUNDATION

OF

Germantown Academy.

1860.

PHILADELPHIA:

C. SHERMAN & SON, PRINTERS,

S. W. CORNER SEVENTH & CHERRY STREETS.

1860.

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Germantown Academy.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION PROPOSED.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Academy of Germantown, held on the 12th day of February, 1855, Wyndham H. Stokes, Esq., stated that with the year 1859, a Century would expire, since the foundation of the Institution; and requested that the Archives, deposited for safety in the Bank of Germantown, might be transferred to the Insurance office for preservation there; and that the Board would appoint a committee to examine the records, and ascertain if there be any matters of permanent interest, worthy of publication, and to report the result of such examination to an early meeting of the Board; the object being, as further stated by Mr. Stokes, to prepare for the due celebration of the Academy's Centennial year, should such celebration be approved and recommended by the Board.

The committee was appointed, but failed to act.

1859, *February 14th.*—At the stated meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on this day, W. H. Stokes, President, invited attention to the omission of the committee appointed 12th February, 1855, to discharge the duty of their appointment; and said, that if it continued to be the intention of the Trustees, to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary, he would suggest the selection of a new committee for the purpose indicated, by resolution of the Board of 12th February, 1855. In accordance with the proposition of Mr. Stokes, a new committee was

appointed, consisting of Messrs. Thomas R. Fisher, Charles W. Schaeffer, and Archibald McIntyre.

1859, *November 14th.*—At the meeting this day, of the Trustees, Mr. Stokes, President, informed the Board, that the committee appointed 14th February, 1859, had prepared no report. Whereupon, by resolution, the committee was authorized and directed, to designate the time for the proposed celebration.

1859, *November 22d.*—A special meeting of the Trustees was held this day, for the purpose of considering definitively, the suggestion of Mr. Stokes, in relation to the proposed Centennial celebration, and to receive report from the committee. The committee reported accordingly, and suggested the 25th January, 1860, as the appropriate day for the celebration. The report was recommitted, with instructions for a further report, upon matters generally pertaining to the proposed celebration, to a meeting of the Board, to be held on the 6th of December, 1859. At the suggestion of the President, a resolution was adopted, directing the committee to advertise the Alumni, through publication in the Germantown Telegraph, of the proposed celebration.

1859, *December 6th.*—The Board met pursuant to adjournment, and after an informal and undecided expression of opinion, relative to the proper day for celebrating the Centennial Anniversary, adjourned, to unite with the Alumni, at a meeting to be held at the Town Hall, for the further consideration of the subject.

TOWN HALL.

At a meeting of Trustees and Alumni of the Germantown Academy, held at this place on the evening of the 6th December, 1859, for the purpose of considering the proposition from the Board, for celebration of the Centennial Anniversary of the foundation of the Academy, JOHN S. LITTELL was called to the Chair, and W. A. ULMER appointed Secretary.

Mr. LITTELL stated the purpose for which the meeting had been called, and referred to doubts entertained by members of the Board of Trustees, in reference to the proper day for the

proposed Centennial Celebration. For himself, he said, he entertained no doubt upon the subject. All necessary preliminaries for the erection of the Academy having been duly determined, at various meetings of the contributors to its cost, a further meeting was called, and held on the first day of January, 1760, for the purpose of organizing a Board of Trustees. On that day, the Board was organized accordingly, by election of Trustees and other usual officers, appointment of committees, &c., and thence, *ipso facto*, became a regularly constituted body, competent, of course, to all purposes contemplated by the several propositions, all duly adopted, in relation to the erection, government, &c., &c., of the Academy, and thus, *ipso jure*, was recognized as a substantive corporation.

There being apparently, universal concurrence in the opinion thus expressed by Mr. Littell, Mr. Joseph Handsberry proposed the following:

Resolved,—That the Centennial Celebration of the foundation of Germantown Academy, be held on the anniversary of the organization of the Board of Trustees thereof, namely, January 1st, A.D. 1860.

Mr. T. B. Butcher concurring in the opinion expressed in the above resolution, as to the proper day for the celebration, thought that the time intervening between the present and that named by Mr. Handsberry, was altogether insufficient for due preparation, and for that reason proposed that the said celebration be held on the 25th of January.

Dr. William Ashmead, not differing from the gentlemen preceding him, in regard to the anniversary day, was of opinion that it would be well, on many accounts, to still further extend the time. It was his wish that there should be a very general participation in the proposed celebration. The time proposed, would be at an inclement season, and persons from a distance would thus be deterred from attendance. While recognizing the *real day* of the anniversary, he would propose not to celebrate it then, but that the recognition of that day be duly marked, and its celebration deferred until the 21st day of April, 1860, both for the reason already urged, and because there would be more appropriateness in the selection of that time, over any other *not* the anniversary, inasmuch as on the 21st day of April,

1760, the *four* corner-stones of the foundation of the Academy were placed by the Board of Trustees.

The proposition of Dr. Ashmead was, for the reasons assigned, unanimously agreed to.

Mr. JABEZ GATES offered the following:—

Resolved, That a Committee of Alumni be appointed by the chairman, to confer with a Committee of the Board of Trustees, in relation to the proper mode of conducting the proposed Centennial Celebration. *Adopted.*

Mr. JOSEPH HANDSBERRY offered the following:—

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting be added to the Alumni Committee. *Adopted.*

On motion of Mr. W. A. ULMER, it was

Resolved, That when this meeting shall adjourn, it be to reassemble at the call of the joint Committee.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Board of Trustees, having appointed the committee contemplated by the resolution offered by Mr. Jabez Gates, at the meeting held at the Town Hall, on the 6th of December, 1859, consisting of Messrs. W. H. Stokes, Albert Ashmead, Frederick Emhardt, Joseph Handsberry, Thomas R. Fisher, Rev. Ch. W. Schaeffer, Archibald McIntyre, and Francis Heyl; the chairman of the meeting held at the Town Hall, immediately thereupon appointed, from the Alumni, the following committee: Messrs. Norton Johnson, Alfred W. Green, M.D., Jabez Gates, Owen Jones Wister, M.D., William A. Ulmer, William H. Squire, M.D. And at a meeting of the committees, held at the Town Hall, on the 16th of February, 1860, JOHN S. LITTELL was appointed chairman of the joint committee, Dr. ALFRED W. GREEN, FREDERICK EMHARDT, and JABEZ GATES, were appointed as a Committee of Arrangements.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

OF THE

FOUNDATION OF GERMANTOWN ACADEMY.

TOWN HALL.

SATURDAY EVENING, 21ST APRIL, 1860.

No event has ever occurred, in Germantown, causing greater sensation, or exciting such universal interest, as the proposed celebration. Early in the morning, the long-continued merry ringing of the Academy bell, reminded the citizens of the dawning of the anticipated day. Flags were streaming, and the appearance of the people gave unerring indication of a gala-day; and from an early hour, it was plain that the public mind was moved by unusual excitement. During the morning a cannon, the property of Mr. Robert Warnock, offered for service in connection with the event, sounded its iron tones, under his direction, one hundred times, in recognition, and in honor, of the CENTENNIAL DAY. The Germantown "National Cornet Band," paraded the streets with its exhilarating and inspiring music, and long before the appointed hour, throngs of people, of both sexes, began to pour into the spacious room of the Town Hall, filling it to its utmost capacity. It was estimated that fifteen hundred persons were present. Many could not be seated, and boys, as usual, filled the window seats, and every other position, accessible to them, peculiar to their special nature, tactics, or supposed necessities. Over the railing at the rear of the stage, the National Flags were arranged in graceful festoons. The Students of the Academy, with their teachers, and the band of musicians, were arranged in the gallery over the rear of the stage, and upon the stage were seated a number of Trustees and of the Alumni, with several of the clergy, and other invited guests.

At eight o'clock, the appointed hour, the President of the occasion, an Alumnus of the Institution, JOHN STOCKTON LITTELL, of Germantown, announced that the Reverend CHARLES W. SCHAEFFER, an Alumnus, had been designated by the Committee of Arrangements, to say the opening prayer, and invited

that gentleman to the discharge of his appropriate duty. The vast audience, reverentially rising, in recognition of the solemnity of the moment, listened, with profound attention, to the following prayer by the Reverend CHARLES W. SCHAEFFER.

"ALMIGHTY GOD! Thou art from everlasting to everlasting! A thousand years are in Thy sight but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night! Thou hast established Thy throne in the Heavens, and Thy kingdom ruleth over all! Thou humblest Thyself to behold the things that are done on earth, and although we have sinned against Thee, yet Thou hast ever rejoiced over us, to do us good, and all the days of our lives have we shared in that mercy which endureth forever. We come into Thy presence at this time through Thy dear Son, JESUS CHRIST, that we may rejoice before Thee, and in the blessings Thou hast poured upon this community, which is the occasion of our assembling together. We acknowledge Thee to be the only true source of life, and wisdom, and knowledge. We have heard with our ears, and our fathers have told us what work Thou didst in their times, in the days of old. We have heard how Thou didst lead them to devise and to execute liberal things, even upon this ground, that their children, and their children's children, and the generations to come, might enjoy the beneficent and wholesome instruction of sound learning, even as we in the days of our youth sat beneath the vine which the fathers planted, and ate largely and freely of the fruit of their labors; and with joy even now as we are surrounded by the active scenes of life—and with joy do we think with increasing interest of the thousand scenes which we were permitted to witness in this place, and in the midst of the circumstances under which our fathers lived and labored. Oh Lord, Thou hast sustained and supported us, and we have been permitted to enjoy the benefits which were contemplated from the erection of these walls, which even at this day stand firm and steadfast before us, and which even now have taken the dignified distinctness and hoary honors of a complete century! Oh Lord God, times and seasons have changed, years and events have passed away like the flood. The thoughts, and sentiments, and schemes, and opinions of men have been started abundantly.

Even governments, and principalities, and powers have changed. Thou hast put down one of these, and lifted up another, and in the midst of all these fleeting things, this work which our fathers conceived in their intelligent zeal, in the affections of their hearts, and in the wealth of their liberality, still stands, and we are permitted to gaze upon it this day, as a token of their worth, and a memorial of Thy faithfulness! Accept us, O Lord God, while we do unite our hearts on this occasion to bring before Thee the offering of our thanksgiving and our praise! We bless Thee, O Lord, thou Giver of every good and perfect gift, for the favors which Thou hast given this school here, in the midst of the people. We bless Thee that Thou hast never failed to raise up out of this community, faithful guardians of its interests, who in times of perplexity always knew what should, and what should not be done, and who in times of peril and of danger, were both willing and able to defend its interests wisely and well.

"We bless Thee, that thou hast from season to season sent it competent and able instructors. We bless Thee for the favor which Thou hast granted many of its pupils, both rich and poor, who having in former years enjoyed the benefit of its instruction, have gone forth to the active scenes of life, in the various walks of usefulness, and have served their generation with distinction according to Thy holy will. O Lord God, let Thy blessing still continue upon our public school—let it abide and increase, and let the glory of its coming years be even greater than all the glory of these former years have been. We pray Thee, O Lord, to endue those, who from time to time may be intrusted with the management of this institution, with wisdom, with zeal in learning, and with a liberal spirit. May this institution continually flourish beneath their care, and may they be enabled to acquit themselves well of their duty, and to be found at all times faithful to their trust. Oh, Lord! do Thou bestow all blessings upon those who may be sent, to be the teachers of this school. May they be men of pure wisdom and sound learning. May they be pure, and gentle, and upright. May they see, again and again, that they are not living or laboring in vain. And whilst the blessings of Providence continue to be increased, and to be multiplied unto them, do Thou

receive them always with the approbation of substantial support of good and virtuous men. Almighty God, have mercy upon the pupils of this school—both upon the present and future generations. May they be brought up in a knowledge of virtue and of truth. Deliver them from all the corruption that is in the world through lust, and make them partakers of Thy grace. May they be trained up in the way in which they should go, and forever after serve well their day and generation. Oh Lord! bring them unto a peaceful and happy end, and finally number them among Thy saints in glory everlasting; and unto Thee, Father, with the Son and the Holy Ghost, we will ascribe all the praise, forever and forever. Amen!"

At the conclusion of the Prayer the following ODE was sung with much spirit by almost the entire audience, among whom it had been largely distributed:

ODE

For the Centennial Celebration of the Foundation of Germantown Academy.

BY JOHN S. LITTELL.

TUNE—*Old Hundred.*

GOD of our Fathers! in *their* name,
We raise to Thee, in notes of praise,
Heart's purest homage, and proclaim
Our grateful love, for prosp'rous days!

For Thou, and only Thou, art He
Who planned the earth, and sea, and air,
And made our land, of all to be
The pride—while guarded by Thy care!

We meet upon this holy spot,
Impurpled erst—a battle-field;
God of our Fathers! shall we not
Praise Thee, who art our stay and shield?

Relentless—with untiring wing—
  Old Time still plunges into night,
And makes no pause to give the ring
  That adds a Century to his flight!

While we, amid the genial rays
  That warm and brighten every hearth,
Recall, with pride, enlightened days,
  Preceding, here, a Nation's birth.

And hence, upon the wing of time,
  To countless, unborn tribes, we speed
In graceful speech and modest rhyme—
  Greeting—and Blessings for their need.

For them, unsullied as its prime,
  Our country's freedom must endure!
We charge them—'mid the storms of time—
  To hold her UNION still secure!

God of our Fathers!—to Thy name,
  Exultant notes of joy we raise!
And here, amid our homes, proclaim
  Our utmost love for prosp'rous days!

Mr. LITTELL then advanced to the speaker's stand and spoke as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—

The occasion of this assemblage is one of no ordinary character. It seldom, indeed, happens that our countrymen may meet for the purpose of a Centennial Celebration. We have but little of what are called, and generally understood as, the "treasures of antiquity;" but, nevertheless, we possess the most ancient of "treasures," of which the oldest peoples,—inhabiters of other lands,—may not boast, in addition to the "multitudinous seas" which we hold as common to the community of nations; the noblest rivers of the world, magnificent lakes and plains; mountains whose hoary vastitude is crowned with "eternal snow," and, by the undisturbed accumulations of all time;—boundless forests with their primeval growth of stupendous vegetation: and the

sunny sky, the common heritage of mankind, with "all its dread magnificence" and infinitude of unequalled glories, that sheds its life-giving warmth, and drops its fatness upon a generous soil, and over a glorious land of every variety of climate, made free and mighty by the impoverishing sacrifices of sages and heroes who adorned and dignified another generation. And these achievements have made us rich in our peculiar and fondly-cherished associations, upon which, certainly in no vulgar, vain-glorious, spirit, we are proud to dwell; precisely as we never forget that our homes here are among the graves of the founders of the mightiest, and of the only true, Republic ever recorded in the chequered history of the world.

We seize the opportunity, almost at the moment of the passage to completion of the consummated time, to celebrate an event creditable to the enlightened magnanimity and philanthropy of men—our predecessors an hundred years ago upon this shore of being—our predecessors also to that dread bourne whence there is no returning.

The object of this centennial occasion—the rich story of the past, with which the suggestive event we shall celebrate is filled, —with its lessons of progress, experience, and wisdom, applicable alike to the present and to the future, will be befittingly rehearsed to you, and with characteristic grace and ability, by the accomplished gentleman chosen for the purpose by a committee of the Board of Trustees of the ancient institution of learning whose ante-revolutionary foundation, one hundred years ago, we are here now to commemorate. I may not, therefore, dwell upon the attractive theme, or give utterance to emotions or retrospections prompted by its teeming and moving suggestions and associations. I shall simply discharge the agreeable duty attached to my office of introducing to you the orator of the evening, a fellow alumnus of the far-famed and dear old Academy of Germantown, and to bespeak a cordial and generous reception for Mr. Sidney George Fisher.

Mr. Fisher then delivered the Oration, holding his large audience in fixed attention to its close; when the President requested the Rev. Henry S. Spackman, of the Episcopal Church, a fellow alumnus, to pronounce the Apostolic Benediction, thus

appropriately concluding the interesting and impressive ceremonies of the evening.

While the people were retiring, the Band played, with much skill, several patriotic airs,—*Hail Columbia*, *Star-spangled Banner*, &c. &c., and also *Auld Lang Syne*, with fine effect.

1860, *April 27th.*—The chairman of the committee composed of the Trustees and Alumni, having given directions for a call of said committee, it met accordingly, at the residence of Mr. FREDERICK EMHARDT. The chairman, Mr. LITTELL, presiding, and present also Messrs. Stokes, Ashmead, Emhardt, Handsberry, T. R. Fisher, Schaeffer, McIntyre, Heyl, N. Johnson, Gates, Ulmer, and Drs. Green, Wister, and Squire.

On motion of Mr. JOSEPH HANDSBERRY:

Resolved, That Messrs. John S. Littell, Frederick Emhardt, Jabez Gates, and Dr. Alfred W. Green, be a committee to procure from Sidney George Fisher, Esq., a copy of his Oration for publication.

Resolved, That John S. Littell, Esq., be requested to prepare a history of this Celebration, from the time it was first proposed to the Board of Trustees: said history to include an account of all proceedings *of the twenty-first day of April, A. D.* 1860, for publication, with the Oration of Mr. Fisher.

The duty devolved upon the writer of these pages by the concluding resolution of the joint committee, is now discharged. He is aware that what has been written, and also, what has been so well spoken, by the ORATOR of the occasion, will descend through many generations, and excite curiosity in far-off days. It will become a portion of the local history, and be treasured among the records of time. With this conviction, from the stand-point of the present, appeal is especially made to our successors of NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY, not to overlook or to disregard, at that long distance, the moving events, or the example, of this memorable day; more interesting to the present inhabitants of Germantown, than any other within their memories;—more in-

teresting, also, than any other occurrence of their history, since the infancy of the community, excepting only the celebrated battle of the 4th of October, 1777, which made their ancient town a cradle spot of our unequalled, and cherished, liberties.

We transmit through our children, and through theirs to those who in the providence of GOD, after the consummation of another Century, shall be our successors here, the inestimable blessing of a Government, benign and perfect as the wisdom of man could devise, or his infirmities bear; founded upon immutable principles of justice, and of natural rights; and depending, assuredly for perpetuity through all the vicissitudes of time, upon the wide dissemination of the opportunities and advantages of Education, the culture of the head, and of the heart, the universal prevalence of enlightened intelligence, through the pure and saving doctrines, and eternal truths, of DIVINE CHRISTIANITY.

We transmit to them, also, proofs of our devotion to the Arts and triumphs of Peace, rich fruits of an advanced, refined and gentle civilization, flowing from elevating pursuits of Literature, of Science, and of Art; of our attachment to the cause of sound learning; and of high and just appreciation of the spirit and virtues of the generous founders of the many noble institutions for its cultivation, that grace the land, and which are rapidly multiplying and improving, with each successive year through the exhaustless munificence of individual and of public enterprise.

And if, in review of the unprecedented progress of our people in all essentials to real power and greatness, we, of the year of OUR LORD *one thousand eight hundred and sixty*, feel that the lines have fallen unto us in pleasant places, and that we live in a grand and noble age, witness of the most wonderful achievements of human genius, and that, more than ever before, men feel the sublimity, and awful responsibility, of life; how shall it be with the inhabiters of this priceless UNION, a Century hence, when so much that has given renown and glory to our time—in discovery, invention, and achievement—shall have been superseded and eclipsed, by the still grander and mightier achievements of that long advance; and when the suggestions of experience and genius, shall have found more magnificent development, and more perfect fruition!

"And better thence again, and better still,
In infinite progression!"—

And finally, with deep, unalterable, conviction of their incalculable value, and importance to the progress of mankind, in all that is best promotive of his permanent interests, we transmit the record of our unutterable love for the venerable political institutions of our country; its peerless Constitution, its glorious Union, cemented by the blood of our forefathers, and in the strength of which, through heavenly intervention, has been achieved our natural independence, and all the national greatness of power and renown.

And here, from among the graves of honored Fathers of the Republic, surrounded by scenes enduringly consecrated by their sacrifices and sufferings,—and in their stead,—we bid a loving, paternal, welcome, to future generations of American men, to this hallowed theatre of their toil and glory!

In the names of their children, who have, in turn, followed to their rest, we bid the generations welcome!

In our own behalf we bid them thrice welcome, to all the blessings we hold in trust for transmission from our own epoch, multiplied unto them to the fullest measure that may be vouchsafed to humanity, through reverential obedience to all the Ordinances of God; and faithful, loyal discharge of the high obligations of cultivated, enlightened, patriotic, American Citizenship!

J. S. L.

Germantown, 28th April, 1860.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Germantown, 28th April. 1860.

Dear Sir,

At a Meeting of the Trustees and Alumni of the Germantown Academy, held on the evening of the 27th April, the undersigned were appointed a Committee to request of you, for publication, a copy of the Oration pronounced by you on the 21st instant, on occasion of the Centennial Celebration of the foundation of the Academy.

Truly yours,

John Stockton Littell,
Frederick Emhardt,
Jabez Gates,
Alfred W. Green.

To Sidney George Fisher, Esq.

Rising Sun Lane. May 2d. 1860.

Gentlemen,

I did not receive your note of the 28th instant till yesterday, because of absence from home. My Address is of course entirely at the service of the Trustees and Alumni of the Academy, for whom it was delivered, and I have much pleasure in complying with their request that it be published.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

Sidney G. Fisher.

To Messrs. John S. Littell,
Frederick Emhardt,
Jabez Gates,
Alfred W. Green,
Committee.

Oration

BY

SIDNEY GEORGE FISHER.

Oration.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I accepted with particular pleasure the invitation of the trustees of the Germantown Academy to address you this evening, because I was once a pupil at that institution. Its old hall, and School-house Lane, and the banks of the Wissahickon, were familiar to my boyhood, as indeed have been this sober, substantial village and its neighborhood, because of other early and late associations, to every period of my life. I therefore claim a share in whatever of local interest belongs to the school and to Germantown.

Everything, however humble, has a history, which, if it could be truly written, is full of meaning and instruction. Whatever work man does, has its tale of motives and purposes, plans and struggles, hope or disappointment, whether it be writing a book or cultivating a garden, founding an empire or building a school-house. Action and passion, will and endurance, toil and sacrifice are necessary to every good and worthy performance, and the annals of these excite our sympathy.

Time, therefore, invests all old things with interest. They are connected with the persons, deeds, events and sentiments of former years, which cluster about them and seem to form part of the ancient building or town, and impress upon it the mystery of the invisible, yet not unfelt presence of the past. The stone walls remain, but the hands that built them, the active life that surrounded them, the thoughts, the affections, the passions, what and who were they? Man vanishes like a shadow, but the work of his hand endures, and long after his name is forgotten, other generations sit beneath the roof that he built. It is a natural and generous feeling that they should wish to know something about him and all others who have dwelt under that roof, and more especially if the scenes amid which we live have been distinguished by important events or the presence of eminent men, do we feel interest even in minute and trivial details respecting them. It is to this sentiment alone that I can appeal in asking you to listen to a short account of our village school, and to some reminiscences gathered from the fading past, of this pleasant and picturesque old town.

On the 6th of December, 1759, a meeting of the inhabitants of Germantown and places adjacent, was held at the house of Daniel Mackinet, which still exists in good preservation. At this meeting it was resolved that a large and commodious building be erected near the centre of the town for the use of an English and High Dutch or German School, and suitable dwellings also for

the teachers to reside in. This was the beginning of the institution. The want of means of education had long been felt in a growing community. The idea of establishing a school was thus suggested; it grew into a purpose, producing will and combined effort and at length, in the resolutions of this meeting, appeared to the world as action.

At the same meeting a subscription was "set on foot, and those present generously subscribed thereto, and Christopher Meng, Christopher Sauer, Baltus Reser, Daniel Mackinet, John Jones, and Charles Bensell were appointed to promote and receive subscriptions from all such well-affected and generous persons as were willing to contribute to and assist the undertaking." It was also agreed that the trustees be chosen by and out of the contributors, and the first choice be made January 1, 1760, and that a plan for the government of the school should, on that day, be laid before the contributors, who should also choose from among them managers for the building.

The contributors met on the 1st of January, 1760. It appeared that the subscription had been so liberal as to afford good hopes of success. A rough draft of the fundamental articles and system for the organization of the school was submitted and approved and intrusted to Joseph Galloway, an eminent lawyer of the day, to be put into proper form. Managers of the building were selected; Richard Johnson appointed treasurer, and Christopher Sauer, Thomas Rosse, John Jones, Daniel Mackinet, Jacob Keyser, John Bowman, Thomas Leiv-

zey, David Deshler, George Absentz, Joseph Galloway Charles Bensell, Jacob Naglee, and Benjamin Engle were chosen trustees. The managers of the building were directed to select a suitable lot, and to submit a plan and estimate of cost at the next meeting.

This was held on the 25th of the same month. The plan of government having been engrossed, was read and agreed to. After reciting as inducement to the enterprise, the importance of liberal education to the well-being of society, and that the people of Germantown had long suffered inconvenience for want of a well-regulated school, it provides, among other things, that the one about to be established, shall be free to persons of all religious denominations whatever; that the trustees shall thenceforward be annually elected by contributors to the amount of forty shillings, that the number of trustees "shall be thirteen and no more, and that they shall be reputable persons in the community." At the same meeting, the managers of the building reported that they had selected a lot, "in the lane or cross street leading towards the Schuylkill, commonly called Bensell's Lane," which, being considered and agreed to, the lot was purchased from the owners, John and George Bringhurst.

On the 8th of February, a plan of the school-house and of houses for the masters was approved, and the managers directed to go on with the building as soon as the season permitted. It was then also determined that the institution should be called "The Germantown Union School-house." On the 10th of April following,

the money was paid for the lot, and a deed executed on the 17th.

The 21st of April, 1760, just one hundred years ago, being the day appointed by the masons to lay the foundation of the school-house, previous notice having been given, the trustees, with several of the managers and contributors assembled, when four corner-stones were laid. The occasion does not appear to have been distinguished by any ceremonial. A simple record of it was made in the minutes. Doubtless, friendly greetings were exchanged; schemes for the management of the school discussed; hopes expressed that their good work might be successfully finished, possibly some may have predicted that it would last one hundred years. They have gone and it remains. On that day our school began to have a visible, tangible existence in the world. The 21st of April, 1760, was its birthday. It has outlived many things that made a bigger show whilst they lasted; and because it has lived and flourished so long, we have met here to-day to notice the fact.

In September, 1761, the school-house was finished and opened for the reception of scholars. Hilarius Becker was the German teacher, David James Dove the English teacher, Thomas Pratt the English usher. The school received immediate encouragement from the people, there being at it, on the 16th of the following October, 131 pupils, 61 in the English and 70 in the German department, proving that the founders had justly appreciated the character and wants of the community. The institution was now established and equipped. It had a board of trustees, teachers, pupils,

and a building. What was before a purpose, had become an achievement; what had been an idea, was now made manifest as a fact. Thenceforward the school was a living power in the world, acting in perhaps a humble sphere, but using in that sphere the mighty instruments that rule the highest, knowledge and truth; using them too, for the noblest of all objects, moral and intellectual culture, that virtue, wisdom and happiness might be increased and spread abroad among men.

It would occupy too much time to follow in detail the fortunes of the school through the long track of one hundred years, nor is it necessary; for though it had vicissitudes, financial embarrassment, disputes with teachers and others, a share of public calamity, yet it has been generally prosperous; and prosperity, whether of schools or empires, furnishes few materials for history. It will be sufficient to notice some facts and events, characteristic of the times, or having important influence on the interests of the school.

On the minutes of July 7th, 1762, is a resolution of the Board worth quoting, because it shows the respect of the trustees for religious liberty, and the importance they attached to the enforcement of courtesy and good breeding in the education of the young, less valued now perhaps than it was then. The resolution is in these words: "The trustees, taking into consideration that the instruction of youth, both in the rudiments of learning and that of good manners, is chiefly aimed at by this institution; nevertheless it being represented to this Board, that some of the children of the people called Quakers,

are in the habit of accosting the masters and others by uncovering the head, which being inconsistent with the practice of that people, has been the cause of some uneasiness to the parents of such children; it is therefore unanimously resolved, that the master shall give express orders to the children of persons of that Society, that they do not accost him or others by uncovering the head at any time." Only to the children of Quakers did this exemption apply. Upon all others, the usual mode of salutation, showing respectful deference to superiors, was still enjoined.

In March, 1764, it appears that Greek, Latin, and the higher mathematics were taught at the school, in addition to the more elementary branches of education, and some years after, it is stated, that the institution was prosperous, both its income and the number of scholars steadily increasing. But evil days were approaching. The relations of the Colonies to England had become, not bonds of friendship and good-will, strengthened by protecting care on one side and loyal attachment on the other, but odious fetters of tyranny and injustice, soon to be broken by the free spirit of the people. Discontent had ripened into wrath and resistance, and the civil discord and long contest that followed, destroying in their course so many works of peaceful industry, were felt also by our village school. The misfortunes of the period left their mark, even on so obscure a record as its minute-book, as the track of a tempest is shown by the broken bush as well as by the uprooted oak. August 15th, 1776: "By reason of the troubled times, none of the trustees

did meet." November 21st of the same year, there was not a sufficient number to make a board; so also March 4th, 1777. April 24th, 1777, the clerk had orders to call a special meeting, but only five trustees were present. July 22d, 1777, a new teacher is appointed, because Thomas Dungan, the master of the English school, had joined the American army, in which he afterwards became a captain.

In August 12th, 1777, is an entry worth preserving as a picture of the times: "The German master having informed some of the trustees that an officer of the army had told him, he had orders to lodge some of the sick soldiers from Washington's army, in the school-house the next day, and as the English school would not only thereby be interrupted, but the German school broken up, the trustees thought it their duty to oppose it as much as lay in their power. A board of trustees being now called together, and an officer present, he agreed to lodge the said sick in the poor-house of this town, if they would give him leave, and remove the poor to any other convenient house, for a short time. The Board ordered to call the overseers of the poor, to know the number of the poor and the state of the poor-house. Whereupon it was agreed by a number of the freeholders, that a town-meeting of the freeholders should be called together by the said overseers, that afternoon, in order to consider of some other house or place for the sick soldiers. A great number met at the school-house, but as they differed in opinion, many went away without giving their votes. Israel Pemberton went the next day to con-

sult with the President, Mr. Hancock, and the sick soldiers were the day after brought from the army to the hospital in Philadelphia, without giving any more trouble to the inhabitants of Germantown."

At a meeting October 14th, 1778, it is stated that, "on account of the distressed times, no German or English school has been kept this good while," and a German master from the country having offered his services, it was agreed that he should have the use of the building to teach reading, writing and arithmetic, at such price as he could get. No more Latin, Greek and mathematics. Science and the Muses had fled frightened from the fierce frown of war.

From October 14th, 1778, until November 1st, 1784, there are no minutes and probably were no meetings of the trustees large enough to make a quorum. I infer this from a note at the end of the first volume of minutes, by Mr. John F. Watson, for if anything had been done in the interval, it would not have escaped the search of so diligent an antiquarian. The school was perhaps closed during those years of calamity and trial, or if open, conducted by some teacher without supervision, other than was necessary to protect the property, which might have been given by any of the trustees, without a formal meeting.

In the year 1784, a new era began for the country and the school. The war was over and the Colonies had become an independent nation. With the return of peace, the arts of peace resumed their gentle sway. Industry revived, and the sense of restored security enabled men

to think again of the interests of science and letters. A charter was obtained in 1784 from the Legislature of the State, incorporating the institution by the name of "The Public School at Germantown," which was amended in 1786. Besides the alteration of name and grant of corporate powers, no important change was made. The first meeting after the charter was held November 1st, 1784, which was probably the first after the war. The country was poor, the government was poor, the school was poor. It was a period of exhaustion, of reconstruction, of gathering together wrecks, of beginning again interrupted labors and broken enterprises. The Legislature excused itself for withholding aid to the school, because "the finances of the State, so soon after a long and expensive war," could not afford it. The trustees therefore set themselves to work, to raise money as best they could. They appointed a committee to obtain subscriptions; they applied to the Legislature, for a grant of part of the land appropriated to the use of public schools, but were unable to pay the expense of survey, when their request was complied with. They continued to struggle on for some years, and gradually prosperity returned. They were aided by subscriptions, the number of pupils increased, and considerable sums were from time to time bequeathed to the institution. In 1808 the trustees had recourse to a lottery to aid the funds, which induced Mr. John Johnson to resign his seat at the Board. So early as 1762, a lottery was set on foot for the benefit of the school, and on that occasion, John Bowman, the treasurer, refused to receive the money,

£93 12*s.*, derived from it. Morality like science is progressive, and both these gentlemen were in advance of their age. Lotteries were not abolished in Pennsylvania till 1833, and are still permitted in some of the States. The day may perhaps come when government will think it as disgraceful to raise revenue from intemperance as from gambling.

Again it happened that the records of the school bear witness to a general and public calamity. In 1793, and in 1798, Philadelphia was visited by the yellow fever. On the former occasion, proposals were made for the occupation of the school-house, by the Legislature of Pennsylvania and by Congress, and it was resolved that it be first offered to the President at a rent of three hundred dollars for the session. In 1798, the use of the cellar and lower story was granted to the Banks of Pennsylvania and North America, during the period of pestilence, they agreeing to paint the building and put on a new roof. The Banks accordingly did occupy the school-house, and in December wrote a letter thanking the trustees "for the asylum afforded them during the dreadful calamity which had lately visited Philadelphia." The letter went on to say, that should there ever be a similar occasion to make it necessary to remove the Banks, "the Directors assure themselves that they will receive all the friendship and protection in the power of the trustees."

In 1810, the house opposite the school was bought for $3200 from James Matthews, who presented the insurance on it to the institution. Mr. John Wister lent $1400 to make the purchase.

From this period the school, though not without some intervals of depression and occasional difficulties, has continued to advance. Its funds have gradually increased; it has received aid from the Legislature; its plan of instruction has been enlarged; every page of the minutes bears witness to the intelligent activity of the trustees and their earnest efforts to promote the influence and elevate the character of the institution. Indeed, the minutes are interesting, if for no other reason than the high tone, moral and intellectual, they display. The trustees were evidently chosen from among the most cultivated and respectable inhabitants of the place. The same men were constantly re-elected from year to year, some of them having been in the Board for twenty to thirty years, and in many cases the son succeeding the father. Among them are names familiar to every one acquainted with Germantown, such as, Bensell, Rittenhouse, Lehman, Johnson, Galloway, Pemberton, Chew, Haines, Logan, Ashmead, Harvey, Watson, Forrest, Betton, Wister, and others, some of whom are yet among us, and the descendants of many still residents of the place. To the worthy task of making this school a perennial source of liberal knowledge and virtue, these gentlemen gave their unselfish labors and thoughts through this long tract of time. Whilst recording the generous services of all, it would be unpardonable to pass without special notice, Mr. Reuben Haines, a liberal patron of science and an active friend of the school, and Mr. Charles J. Wister, a trustee for thirty years, who presented to the institution a valuable

philosophical apparatus, and delivered for the benefit of the pupils, several courses of lectures on Mineralogy, Geology, and Chemistry.

As already mentioned, the school was founded by a number of contributors, who at the time, provided in its written plan or constitution, that the trustees should forever after be elected by those contributors, and from their number. This principle was confirmed by the charter of 1784, and continued to govern until 1837, when a supplement to the charter was passed by the Legislature. Under this law, the trustees were thenceforward to be elected by all the citizens of the district, qualified to vote for State and County officers. This was certainly an important and organic change in the constitution of the school. It was not made without opposition, and created at the time fears as to its injurious influence. These, however, have not been justified by the result, for the institution is now in a flourishing condition. Its finances are prosperous; it employs three teachers for the ancient languages and English, besides occasional instructors in German and French. The plan of education embraces all the studies necessary to prepare young men to enter the Sophomore class at college, and from eight to ten are so prepared every year. The school has now about one hundred pupils; the teachers are competent and of good repute; the trustees are zealous; and though it is one hundred years old, it is healthy and vigorous, showing no signs of decrepitude or decay.

In looking over the annals of our school, I have already noticed how its humble history reflects the vary-

ing fortunes of our country, as the sky with its clouds and sunshine is mirrored in a wayside pool: the slow growth of the colonial period; the distress and prostration of the war; and, with peace, liberty and nationality, rapid progress and development. The school possesses some curious relics, which are also symbolic of the past. On the spire of the building is a crown, placed there by the loyal love of our ancestors for their government; in the steeple is a bell that came over in the ship that brought the tea which was thrown overboard into Boston harbor; in the library is a spy-glass used by Washington at the battle of Germantown. Each of these represents a portion of history,—colonial dependence; indignant resistance to royal power; war, Washington, and victory.

Such is a brief sketch of the origin and progress of the Germantown Academy. There is nothing very striking in it to excite attention or please the imagination. The chief fact of interest is, that it has lived and flourished for one hundred years. During all that time it has been quietly dispensing the blessings of knowledge to successive generations, preparing the youth of a neighborhood for useful activity, and sowing the first seeds of an intellectual harvest to be reaped in the future. That it has done much good cannot be doubted, though its labors have been unobtrusive, neither seeking nor calculated to attract the public eye. Every year it has sent out its little band, either to schools of a higher grade or into the busy scenes of the world. We may feel certain that, by its modest means and humble efforts, it has

during the century prevented much idleness, vice, and crime, given steady and true workers to every department of activity, and thus promoted individual happiness and the improvement of society. It has been said that he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before, is a public benefactor; how much more so they who make ideas grow in minds else barren; who stimulate to worthy aims and labors talents else wasted; who give to the community educated intellect, able to comprehend its interests and furnished with the attainments necessary to advance them. A nobler work no man can do than to found a seminary of learning, and thus pour forth upon society a perpetual stream of elevating, refining, fertilizing power. This unselfish work, those who established the Germantown Academy performed a hundred years ago. Their successors have not been negligent of the trust. Under their care the school has prospered, and therefore it is fit that both those who founded and those who fostered it, should be remembered with honor. They did, what is not done so often that it is unworthy of notice, they gave their time, their talents and their money for the public good, and the gratitude of the public should preserve their names from oblivion.

The history of the Germantown Academy is necessarily connected with that of the town itself. For the benefit of its people the school was founded, and by its prominent citizens has been fostered and managed. A few facts, therefore, connected with its early times, and

those who lived in them, will not be inappropriate on this occassion.

Germantown was settled, 1683, by Francis Daniel Pastorius, who emigrated with a few companions from Germany. When he first came to this neighborhood, he lived in a cave, as did many of the primitive inhabitants. He took up six thousand acres of land for himself and others, and owned the whole of Chestnut Hill. He was a scholar, learned in many languages, and the author of several curious books, some of them still preserved, and of a description of Pennsylvania. Germantown was incorporated and made a borough-town, by William Penn, in 1689. Pastorius was the first bailiff, and assisted by three burghers, made laws, and imposed taxes. He was the leader and chief of the first settlers, who in character and education, were superior to most emigrants to a new country. They were chiefly from the neighborhood of Worms, on the Rhine, and had fled from the religious persecution then prevalent in Europe, bringing with them love of learning, of religious and political liberty, some property and habits of frugality and industry. The writings of Penn had been circulated in Germany, and he himself had travelled there. Some of his religious opinions accorded with the new ideas that had sprung up in that country, and the inducements he offered of peace and liberty, cheap land, plenty and a hopeful future, tempted many to seek freedom and fortune in the New World. He and his followers came, not to conquer with the sword, but with the plough, and sought to establish an empire, by the

spiritual weapons of religious truth, charity and good-will to all men. They were singularly successful. Their government was stained neither by violence nor tyranny, the colony grew rapidly in numbers and wealth, and so long as the counsels of its founder prevailed, was blessed with tranquil prosperity. As the period was one of great religious excitement in Europe, when the minds of men had just been released from a long thraldom and the contest between power and free thought was still raging, it is not surprising that there should have been among the emigrants, some zealots of a wild and visionary character. Of these, a sect called "The Society of the Woman of the Wilderness," settled here. It was founded on some mystic interpretation of a text of Scripture, and professed a creed not easily understood, and not worth study now. The members of this Society devoted themselves to a solitary life of religious contemplation, and numbers of them actually lived as hermits, in huts and caves on the Wissahickon, when that romantic and beautiful stream was yet a wilderness, ignorant of mills, taverns, trotting wagons and picnics. The chief of these enthusiasts was Kelpius, and after him, Selig, his companion, both of them men of learning, sincere in their faith, benevolent in their feelings and their dealings with the world. Another, of a much higher character and well worthy of record, was Benjamin Lay. He was born in England, in 1677, of humble parentage, and his trade at first was that of a glove-maker. He afterwards became a sailor and visited all parts of the world, and then engaged in commercial

pursuits at Barbadoes. In his character, moral sentiment predominated, and it was guided by native good sense. He was smitten with the love of humanity, of justice, of divine truth, and was so possessed by these, that the temporal, the sensual and the worldly, held no place in his thoughts or his affections. Hence, he became an enthusiast, wholly devoted to spiritual things, wholly indifferent to worldly things, more especially his own share of them, and the outward interests of his ephemeral life. He was thus of kin to the saints and martyrs and religious recluses, who, in the early ages of Christianity, founded monasteries and lived as anchorites and hermits, in the deserts of the East. Whilst at Barbadoes, his benevolence was shocked by the abominable cruelties of the Slave-trade, his sense of right, by its monstrous injustice. He fearlessly expressed his opinions, and soon found the interests of caste and property and commerce too strong for him. He was persecuted and reviled, and sought refuge in this country. He came to Philadelphia with his wife, who shared his sentiments, in 1731, and purchased a few acres on the Old York Road, near Milestown, where he planted an orchard and built a small dwelling, which was partly a hut and partly a cave. There he resided for many years, living in the most ascetic manner, on vegetables and fruit and clothed in homespun, both the results of his own labor; reading, writing, exhorting also, in public and in private. He bore unselfish testimony against slavery, the cruelty of the criminal code and other social ills, and addressed himself to meetings of the Quakers,

to Governors and Legislatures, not without effect, for he lived to see his principles adopted, and his zealous advocacy, no doubt, influenced the result. After living at Milestown for nine years, he removed to the farm of John Phippes, near Abington meeting-house, with whom he boarded, and where he died, in 1759. There he constructed a cave, for his library of two hundred volumes, in which he was accustomed to read and meditate and write. His appearance was remarkable. He was four feet seven inches in height; hunchbacked; his limbs excessively slender; his head disproportionately large; his countenance expressive of serenity, intelligence, and benignity. He was universally respected, and his eccentricities and virtues attracted the notice and the friendship of Dr. Franklin, Anthony Benezet, and Dr. Beneville. An interesting memoir of him and of Ralph Sandiford, his friend and co-laborer, was written by Roberts Vaux, well known in his life for intelligent philanthropy and active benevolence, and not forgotten now.

The Dunkards were another religious society, who emigrated from Germany and first settled here in 1709. Alexander Mack was their leader, a rich miller in his native country, who divided his substance among his followers. They were distinguished by many peculiarities of costume, manners and belief and were in some respects a monastic order,—temperate, moral, frugal, and inoffensive. Their peculiar tenets, customs and dress, have almost, if not wholly vanished, at least, from this neighborhood. Many of the first emigrants from Ger-

many were also Quakers. This religious Society exercised a permanent and very decided influence for many years on the character of the settlement and the government of the Province. Penn himself was a Quaker, and so were most of the leading men and families of the colony. The Quakers of Germantown were probably the first persons in America who made a formal protest against the Slave-trade and Slavery. At that time Slavery had not become a political question, controlling the power of parties and sections, neither was it connected with the vast material interests since created by the cotton crop, nor with the domestic peace and security of half the country. It was not foreseen that the Negro would ever lay upon the nation a grasp which no skill of statesmanship can shake off, or interfere, with a voice of command stronger than the ballot-box, in the trial of issues vital to the future. The question of Slavery was then, therefore, purely moral, uninfluenced by those temporal, but momentous considerations of expediency, of safety, of social peace and national existence, that now surround it; and thus, these early Quakers held the same opinions on the subject, afterwards earnestly expressed, under like circumstances, by Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Patrick Henry, and other founders of the Republic.

The early settlers of Germantown brought with them the arts of industry. They were skilled in manufactures and various handicrafts, and their labor and thrift were speedily rewarded by prosperity. The first paper factory in America was established in Germantown, in 1690, by

Nicholas Rittenhouse, the grandfather of the astronomer. The first grist-mill in the colony was built here, now called Roberts's Mill, in Church Lane. The first Bible published in America was printed here by Christopher Sauer. The village was early celebrated for the manufacture of linens and woollen stockings, and its reputation for the latter continued till a late day. The German character influenced the manners and appearance of the place for many years, and the German language was used in sermons and conversation until about the year 1793, when the yellow fever sent many of a different race from the city, who made the town their residence. German thrift, morality, steadiness and good feeling prevailed also, and their impress on the neighborhood is yet visible in the manners of the people, and the substantial, comfortable and prosperous look of the houses of the old time, many of which remain. Their rich gables, projecting eaves and cornices, hipped roofs, and pleasant sheltered porches, are similar to those now to be seen in the cities and villages on the Rhine; and whilst they recall a respectable and interesting past, might give also, if properly studied, some hints in architecture to builders, of what Mr. Downing calls the "Cocked-hat school." No art has made more rapid progress among us of late years than domestic, and especially rural architecture; yet, there are houses in Germantown and its neighborhood, a century old, which, in picturesque effect and the expression of solid respectability and home-comfort and refinement, are at least equal to any of their modern rivals.

These reminiscences, though only of local interest, are for that reason worth recording. Germantown has, however, been the scene of events intimately connected with the annals of the nation. Great deeds, great names, invest a place with an undying charm. The spot seems to be a part of the action that has stirred our enthusiasm of the genius and virtue that have excited our love and veneration; the only visible and tangible part that time has spared. The events and the men were fugitive; all that remain are the hills, the old walls and trees, mute witnesses of their presence. These associations, connecting an illustrious past with a visible present, form one great source of the enjoyment of foreign travel. Annual crowds still visit the battle-fields of the Old World, and make pilgrimages to the places of birth, the homes, the tombs of heroes and poets. By these, Europe is covered with the lustre of great ideas, with the glory of departed worth and intellect. We are yet too young to possess many such shrines of fame, but our heroic age has not passed away, without consecrating, by its touch, some of the material things that have survived it. Our love of country and pride of race are moved to a warmer glow when standing on Bunker Hill, and are imbued with a deeper feeling of tenderness and veneration, by the tomb at Mount Vernon. The War of the Revolution and its hero have made these two places sacred ground. Thought and emotion hover about them, and color earth, tree, rock and wall, with ideal hues. The War of the Revolution and its hero, are possessions national and American, and have left behind them, memories, lessons and

fruits. The deeds and the man, parts of this changing, flowing world, were soon borne onward by the hours, out of sight. Whatever relics of their presence we have, are precious. They touched Bunker Hill and Mount Vernon, and since, the very earth and stones have become costly and redolent of thought and feeling. They touched this quaint old village of Germantown. Both of them were here, the hero and the war, in the street before us. Along that highway, and for miles on either side of it, the storm of battle passed; one among many, in an eight years' struggle for an idea—the divine idea of liberty and right. For this Washington drew his sword, and our ancestors encountered perils, hardships, and privations, through weary years of hope deferred and suffering, such as we, enjoying the security and plenty thus purchased for us, can scarcely realize. It was an idea worth fighting for, for on it has been founded a nation.

The Battle of Germantown occurred on the 4th day of October, 1777. It was at a dreary period of the war. Hope had been chilled by reverses. The treasury was empty, the army unpaid and scantily supplied with ammunition, food and clothing. There was not much to cheer the hearts of men, save confidence in the justice of their cause and in the courage and ability of their great chief, whose aspect and character seemed created, not for defeat, but victory. In July, 1777, a British fleet entered the Chesapeake, and in the following September, the battle of Brandywine was fought, where La Fayette, then just arrived, first drew his friendly sword and shed his blood for America. After a severe engagement, the

British gained the day, and such was the weak condition of our army for want of necessary supplies, that Washington was obliged to resist the public opinion of the hour, which urged him to risk another contest to protect Philadelphia. That city was accordingly occupied by the enemy, on the 26th of September. The camp and main body of the British army were stationed at Germantown, crossing it near the centre; its General, Sir Wm. Howe, having his head-quarters at Stenton, the residence of William Logan. Washington was posted at Whitemarsh, and directed his attention to cutting off the supplies of the enemy, by interrupting their communication with their ships in the Delaware, and with the surrounding country. Having recruited his troops, and succeeded in withdrawing a portion of the British force, Washington determined on making an attack on its position, to rescue the city. One division of his army was to march by Chestnut Hill, another by the Ridge Road, another by the Limekiln Road, and a fourth by the Old York Road. These several columns were intended to break the British lines, turn their flanks, and beat them in detail. The first assault was successful, and the result of the enterprise would probably have been fortunate, had it not been for the advantage afforded to the enemy by the house at Cliveden, the country-seat of Benjamin Chew, a large stone building, which a party of British soldiers occupied, and thence poured a destructive fire on the advancing columns of the Americans. This broke their line, and deranged their plan. It also gave the British time to recover from their first shock,

and to rally. The country around was covered by small inclosures; a dense fog obscured the early morning light; the advancing brigades of the Americans once separated could not be united; and the result was, that after a confused and severe contest, which raged for miles on either side of the main street, our troops retreated in disorder and returned to Whitemarsh. In this battle, 200 were killed, about 600 wounded and 400 made prisoners, on the American side, and 100 killed and 400 wounded on the British. The enemy remained in possession of the city, and again the whole attention of Washington was directed to defending the forts on the Delaware. It was not till the 18th of June, 1778, that the British army left Philadelphia.

Whilst it remained, the privations and terrors of war were softened by the amenities of refined social intercourse. Many families in Philadelphia, as elsewhere, were Tories, and did not regard the British as enemies. Even those who wished well to the cause of their country, could distinguish between the private man and the soldier, obeying the orders of his government, and could appreciate worth, elegance, and refinement, though in a British uniform. The elastic spirits and quick affections of young hearts would not be repressed by the sternness of the times, and the interchange of civilities, courtesies, and gaiety, went on, even in this sentinelled and beleaguered town.

The bright eyes and lovely faces of our countrywomen made conquests which Washington himself could not then make, and young English officers sometimes won

triumphs in ball-rooms as well as battle-fields. Some records of these festive scenes, that decked with flowers the grim visage of war, have come down to us. The most celebrated was a regatta, a tournament, a ball, and a banquet, called the Meschianza, given at a large house in Southwark, the country-seat of Joseph Wharton, on the 18th of May, 1778, by the officers of the British army, to Sir William Howe, on his resigning the command. Whatever of beauty and fashion were left in Philadelphia, were invited and many went, though they did not escape some reproach for what was regarded as want of proper feeling for their country. The garden and building were handsomely decorated and brilliantly lighted. The knights fought on horseback, in mimic combat, with lances, with pistols, and with swords. After the tournament, was the ball and after that, the supper. The revelry lasted until four o'clock in the morning. In the midst of the festival, as if to contrast its light graces with the sombre reality by which it was surrounded, when

> "Music arose with its voluptuous swell,
> Soft eyes looked love to eyes that spake again,
> And all went merry as a marriage-bell,"

the sound of distant guns broke upon the ear. It was an alarm, fired by the British lines below the city, because of an attack made on them by Col. Allen McLane and his gallant band, who did such good service and won so much fame during the war. Although it was "the cannon's opening roar," no Waterloo carnage followed,

and the ominous sounds scarcely interrupted the pleasures of the night. These pleasures, snatched in the midst of danger and gloom, were perhaps, the sweeter on that account. They were dignified by the deep interests, the great ideas, the ennobling sentiments, the hopes and fears and stirring events amid which they put forth their transient blossoms. The men who were gayest in the dance were no carpet-knights, but soldiers, who had borne the brunt of battle not long before, and expected soon to be summoned to it again. One of them was the brave and accomplished André. He was conspicuous among the managers of the fête, painting the scenes, arranging the costumes, lending it the impulse of his bright and joyous spirit. His fine talents, generous nature and gracious manners, won for him the affections of all hearts, wherever he appeared, in the camp, the drawing-room, the prison, or on the scaffold. Kind feelings, displaying themselves amid the passions of human contest, like gleams of light in a storm, relieve and soften the horrors of war; and it is a pleasure, when reading the annals of the time, to see that the necessary fate of this amiable and gallant young soldier was lamented by both armies, by his friends and his foes, and that he was honored by the respect and the regret of the great heart of Washington, who, nevertheless, condemned him to die.

In one month after the fête of the Meschianza, the British army left Philadelphia and the war swept away from this neighborhood, still to rage with varying fortune for nearly five years longer, before the courage and

toils of our army and the conduct of its chief were crowned with success. When peace was at length declared, in 1783, Washington resigned his command, and gladly hung up his sword at Mount Vernon, taking a pruning-knife instead. He had been a soldier from his youth, and it is impossible to suppose him insensible to the enjoyment of exerting his talents and skill in the profession to which his life had been devoted; that he was wholly indifferent to honors and high command; that his blood was not warmed by the exciting scenes, the perils and adventures of camps and battles;

> "The neighing steed, and the shrill trump;
> The spirit-stirring drum, the ear-piercing fife;
> The royal banner and all quality,
> Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war."

But in him the passions were so tempered and regulated by reason, so blended with the sentiment of humanity and the instinct of duty, that he could not love war for its own sake, still less as a means of gratifying a selfish desire. His country, not ambitious schemes, filled his mind; and when the cause of his country and the higher cause of justice and liberty were vindicated, his pure taste led him to seek eagerly the tranquil enjoyments of domestic life, and the simple pleasures and quiet pursuits of a farmer. The delights of home, of leisure and retirement, of a farm and its labors, had higher charms for his serene and noble nature, than the responsibilities and pride of power, the press and throng of company and affairs, or even the gaze and plaudits of

admiration and love that his presence always drew from his grateful countrymen.

When the war ended, independence was gained, but much remained to be done. The States were not a nation; Congress was not a government. Both were to be constructed; and, fortunately for us, the task of building up a nation and a government fell into competent hands. The men who undertook it were not wanting in talents and knowledge. They had been taught by the experience of troubled times, strengthened by the shocks of a long conflict, trained by danger and difficulty, and elevated above low aims and petty views by the heavy responsibility cast upon them, of moulding the destinies of a great people. They did not shrink from their duty; and their work was the Union and the Constitution.

The next thing was to find the fit person to direct the first movements of the elaborate machine, to command the ship of the State then launched upon the wild and dangerous billows of time. All eyes were spontaneously turned upon the farmer at Mount Vernon, to the soldier who had never faltered amid perils and adverse fortune, to the conqueror who had abdicated power and withdrawn from the honors of victory, to the sage whose virtue and wisdom surpassed even the glory of the hero. The only difficulty was to overcome the reluctance of this man of simple tastes to enter again upon the busy and crowded scenes of action, to give up his cherished retirement, to quit his beloved fields and woods. The call of duty, however, prevailed then as before; and, diffident of his own ability, fearful of new duties and

trials, yet humbly trusting to the purity of his intentions and the guardian care of Providence, Washington became, in March, 1789, the first President of the United States.

In 1793, whilst the yellow fever was in Philadelphia, Washington resided in Germantown. He lived in the house on the southwest side of the main street below Schoolhouse Lane, then the property of Isaac Franks, now owned and occupied by the family of the late estimable and respected Samuel B. Morris. It is a large and comfortable mansion, old-fashioned in its style of architecture, but in better taste than many modern houses of more pretension. There Washington dwelt; and every day his stately and graceful form was seen in the street and lanes, on foot and on horseback, returning with grave courtesy the salutations of the people; conversing with the humblest and the highest with unaffected kindness and simplicity, mingled with native dignity; and inspiring in the hearts of all, veneration and love by his aspect and manner, as well as by his achievements and character. No man depended less for the respect of others upon the adventitious and the external. Not to what he had, of station or power or wealth, but to what he was, to what he did daily, to what he had done through life, was the spontaneous homage of men rendered, whenever he could be seen among them. There was nothing brilliant or dazzling in his character. He was not a genius, in the sense that implies great powers of original or subtle thought or creative imagination. He was neither a philosopher,

a poet, nor an orator. Even in war, there are names whose Plutonian splendors eclipse his own. His mind was distinguished by large, sound, practical good sense, inspired and elevated by noble sentiment. His sagacity was of that high kind that perceives intuitively the great laws that control the action of society, and could neither be deceived by visionary dreams of ideal good, nor degraded to serve the low interests of the passing hour. His views were broad and general, comprehending the necessities of the present and the hopes of the future; but they were attainable, and contemplated the actual government of human society, not Utopian republics of impossible happiness and virtue. His qualities in action were similar. Judgment, prudence, unwearied fortitude and perseverance, bold and prompt decision, all directed to just and moderate ends, and these gained, satisfied; not sighing for fresh fields of enterprise and other worlds to conquer. No temptation could have made him cross a Rubicon; no Moscow could have allured him to empire or ruin. He had no selfish designs either of gain or glory; no private purposes. The freedom and independence of his country were the objects to which he devoted himself, and to these only because they were in themselves just and right. He had all

> "The king-becoming graces:
> As justice, verity, temperance, stableness,
> Bounty, perseverance, mercy, lowliness,
> Devotion, patience, courage, fortitude."

He thus inspired unbounded confidence. His valor

and integrity could be depended on with as much certainty as the laws of gravitation; his wisdom and prudence with as much as the infirmity of human nature will permit to any man. He was therefore a born chief, guide, ruler; and on his majestic brow, Nature herself placed a diadem brighter than a king's, and seated him on the highest and noblest throne in the world,—the affection, the veneration, and the gratitude of his countrymen. The most impressive part of Washington's nature was moral grandeur, unconscious of itself. To be simply and serenely good was a law of his being, and required no effort. Singleness of purpose, absolute probity, immovable steadfastness, benign kindness of heart, were expressed alike by his deeds, his countenance and his manners, in public and private, and elevated whilst they satisfied the mind of the beholder,—like the sight of a rock-based and rock-buttressed mountain, the type of strength and permanence,

> "Which images the stable good
> For which we all our lifetime grope."

The stature of Washington's character was so large, it was made up of such noble virtues and great talents, that its measure and proportion cannot be appreciated at a glance. So it is ever with the grandest of Nature's works. Every one is disappointed at the first sight of Niagara. It must be approached and examined in detail before it can be understood. But when we have seen the Rapids and Goat Island, the sustained tumult of the

rushing waters, the river below the falls, the setting of rock and wood that incloses them, and taken each into our mind, then the harmony of the whole, its wondrous combination of terror and sublimity, touched and softened by beauty, is revealed. The grandeur and the grace, the nobility and majesty of Washington, the balance and symmetry of his whole being, affect us more and more the longer we look at it, and lead the mind continually to higher levels of thought and feeling. We rise from respect to reverence, from reverence to awe; we feel the warm glow of enthusiasm that lofty virtue inspires, whilst love throws its tender tints over the stoic severity of our mood, as the rainbows of Niagara gleam and quiver amid the whirling foam and thunder of the cataract.

Whilst Washington was in Germantown, so was the "Republican Court," the officers of the General Government, and of the State Government too, the fever having driven them also from the city. Jefferson lived in the house now the Bank of Germantown, Hamilton at Fair Hill, some miles down the turnpike, then and now the property of the Norris family. Besides these official personages, Germantown was also honored in 1794–5, by the presence of a genuine artist—Gilbert Stuart. He here painted the portrait which has transmitted to posterity the grave and noble countenance of the Father of his Country. The pictures of Stuart are distinguished by lifelike character and expression, and apart from their subjects, must always be valuable as works of art.

There are names also, connected by birth or perma-

nent interest with this town, of more than local celebrity in science, in letters, and in government. Thomas Godfrey, the inventor of an improvement in the quadrant, of great importance to navigation, was born here in 1704. He was a man of humble origin, a glazier by trade, wholly uneducated except by his own unaided efforts, but one of those rare minds, which force their way to success in spite of difficulty. His genius for mathematics was overpowering, and enabled him to master its most subtle problems. His discovery of the principle on which his invention was founded, seems to have been suggested by an accident, as the falling of an apple led Newton to the train of thought from which he deduced the laws of gravitation. Godfrey was engaged in his trade at the house of James Logan, at Stenton,* when accidentally observing a piece of fallen glass, an idea entered his mind which induced him to go to the library and take down a volume of Newton's Principia. James Logan coming in at the time, inquired the object of his search, was much interested in what he said, and became thenceforth his zealous friend. He endeavored, though without success, to obtain for him all the advantages of his discovery; addressing in his behalf a letter to Dr. Edmund Halley, then engaged in astronomical experiments at the observatory at Greenwich, and also a paper to the Royal Society, describing the instrument and certifying the originality of the invention. No benefit however accrued to Godfrey from these friendly

* Armistead's Life of James Logan, 163.

services, but, for some reason, not fully explained, the credit of the invention was appropriated by another, and it went by the name of Hadley's quadrant, and perhaps does so still. James Logan's account of Godfrey in his letter to Dr. Halley is very interesting. He says, "A young man, born in this country, by trade a glazier, who had no other education than to learn to read and write, with a little common arithmetic, accidentally met with a mathematical book, and took such a fancy to the study, that by the natural strength of genius, without any instructor, he soon made himself master of that and of every other of the kind he could borrow or procure in English; and finding there was more to be had in Latin books, under all imaginable discouragements, applied himself to the study of that language, till he could pretty well understand an author on these subjects; after which, the first time I ever saw or heard of him, he came to borrow Sir Isaac Newton's Principia of me. Inquiring of him hereupon who he was, I was indeed astonished at his request, but after a little discourse, he soon became welcome to that or any other book I had."*

Another distinguished name that belongs to Germantown, is that of David Rittenhouse, born here in 1732. He was the son of a plain farmer, and, like Godfrey, self-taught; emerging from obscurity by the light of native genius, industriously cultivated and exerted, until he obtained a very high reputation both at home and abroad. He was a man of varied ability. He was chiefly cele-

* Hazard's Register of Pennsylvania, vol. i, 194.

brated for his mathematical talents and works, but he was also remarkable for mechanical ingenuity, and invented the Orrery, an instrument that illustrates with great beauty and accuracy the motion of the heavenly bodies. His fame as an astronomer was such, that he was elected fellow of the Royal Society of London, and became successively Secretary, Vice-President and in 1791, President of the American Philosophical Society, in which honorable office he was preceded by Franklin and succeeded by Jefferson, both of them his admirers and friends. He was also for many years Treasurer of Pennsylvania and a director of the National Mint.

As already mentioned, the Battle of Germantown has invested Cliveden with historic interest. It has, however, other claims. The land, about sixty acres, was bought, and the house built in 1765, by Benjamin Chew, a very eminent lawyer and judge, both before and after the Revolution. It is a large stone mansion, weather-stained and venerable now, and built after the solid and picturesque fashion of the old time. Mr. Chew was a native of Maryland, where his father, Samuel Chew, was a physician, but had also acquired so extensive a knowledge of the law and consequent reputation, that he was appointed Chief Justice of New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties, afterwards constituting the State of Delaware. Benjamin Chew, in early life, exhibited a fondness for intellectual pursuits. He was a student in the office of Andrew Hamilton, in Philadelphia; was much esteemed and trusted by him, because of his talents and assiduity, and after the death of that distinguished lawyer,

completed his professional studies in the Middle Temple, London, in 1744. On his return, his ability and attainments speedily acquired for him extensive practice and reputation, both at the Bar and in public affairs. He became, successively, Attorney-General for the Province, member of the Governor's Council, and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, before the Revolution. At that period, Mr. Chew was a Tory, so far as that word implies, not indifference to the rights of his country, or approval of the tyrannical measures of the Crown, but loyalty to his government, reluctance to sever old ties, and dissent from what he and many other honest men at the time thought, the premature measure of Independence. That his rectitude and honorable character were recognized, notwithstanding his political views, the friendship of Washington, both before and after the war, and his appointment, by Governor Mifflin, to the office of President-Judge of the High Court of Errors and Appeals, are sufficient proof. Mr. Chew was distinguished not only for his legal attainments, for purity and ability as a Judge, but for general literary culture, private worth and the accomplishments of a gentleman. His son, who also lived at Cliveden, still the property of his descendants, was, for thirty-nine years, the President of the Board of Trustees of our school, and very active and zealous for its interests.

A sketch of the early times of Germantown would be very imperfect without some notice of Stenton, a place in its immediate neighborhood, associated with the history of Pennsylvania from the beginning, and in some

degree, at a later date, with that of the General Government. Stenton was the residence of James Logan, and was then a farm of between four and five hundred acres, still the property of his descendants. He built the house there in 1727, a large and comfortable brick mansion, plain but substantial and in good taste, with wainscotted rooms, and a hall paved with brick. James Logan was of Scottish descent and his family was connected with several interesting points of Scottish history. He came to Pennsylvania in 1699, with William Penn and at his request, to assist him in the government of the Province. He represented the proprietor in his absence, was his confidential friend and adviser, entirely trusted by him, and in various official stations, either managed exclusively or participated in, all important measures, and was in fact, a co-founder of the colony. He united ability in public affairs, with literary culture and scientific acquirements and accumulated a curious and valuable library, which he bequeathed to the city of Philadelphia, together with a fund for its support. His views of government were liberal and enlightened, and his conduct, in public and private, distinguished by probity, benevolence and fidelity in the performance of duty. His kindness to the Indians forms a very interesting portion of his history; he was long remembered and venerated by them, as a friend and benefactor, and to his humane policy has been justly ascribed, in great part, the early and rapid prosperity of Pennsylvania, which thus escaped the expense, suffering and devastation produced elsewhere by Indian wars, provoked by injustice and

ppression. He is thus described in a memoir of his life, y Wilson Armistead, published in London, 1851.

"James Logan was certainly one of the best and most earned of the whole number of the early emigrants to he American continent, and he became one of the greatest benefactors of Pennsylvania. Besides being appointed Secretary to the Province, he filled, with great ability and integrity, the offices of Commissioner of Property, Chief Justice, and for nearly two years, that of Governor of the Province, as Secretary of the Council. His intellect was powerful, and his acquirements considerable, being well versed in ancient and modern learning, acquainted with the Oriental tongues, and master of the Greek, Latin, French, and Italian languages. He was deeply skilled in mathematics, in natural and moral philosophy, and was the author of several works, in Latin, and English. He was a patron of learning, held an extensive correspondence with the literati of Europe, and bequeathed a library of 3000 volumes as a legacy to his countrymen, consisting of the best works, in various languages, arts, and sciences; a splendid and durable monument of his munificence, and of his attachment to Pennsylvania."

In 1738, he gladly withdrew from public employment, and refused, though solicited, to resume the Presidency of the Province. He lived at Stenton, devoting himself to the duties and pleasures of domestic life, to literature, science and agriculture, and died in 1751, in the seventy-seventh year of his age.

His eldest son, William, was born, and passed his

life at Stenton, chiefly in the employments and pleasures of a country gentleman. He received a liberal education, commenced under the care of his father, and completed in England. He was a member of the Provincial Council, and took some part, though never a prominent one, in public affairs. Like his father, he was a warm friend of the Indians, gave the aged a settlement on his land, educated the young at his own expense, and when, in 1762, they were threatened by the Paxton Boys, he united with others, Quaker though he was, in the determination to repel them by force.

He was succeeded by his son, George Logan, who was born at Stenton, in 1753, and died there in 1821. He was educated as a physician and finished his studies at the Medical School at Edinburgh, after which he travelled in Europe, under the best auspices and when in Paris, enjoyed the friendship and kind attentions of Franklin, then at the French Court. Dr. Logan never engaged in the practice of his profession, but on his return, in 1779, devoted himself to the improvement of his farm, in which he was very successful, to literature, and to public interests and duties. He was an active member of the Philadelphia Society for promoting Agriculture, the first established in America, and also to a county society, then in existence, which held its first meeting at his house. It was the cause of much agreeable social intercourse among the gentlemen in the neighborhood, and his wife, in an interesting memoir, preserved in the Philadelphia Library, speaking of its influence, gives a pleasing description of the manners of

he time. "I have not forgotten," she says, "the greeable interchange of visits, the beneficial emulation, he harmless pride, with which we exhibited specimens of our industry and good management to each other. The spinning-wheel was going in every house, and it was a high object of our ambition to see our husbands and families clothed in our own manufactures, and to produce at our social dinner-parties, the finest ale of our own brewing, the best home-made wines, cheese, and other articles, which we thought ought to be made among ourselves."

Dr. Logan was a member of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, and of the Senate of the United States, and took a very warm and active part in political affairs. He enjoyed the friendship and confidence of some of the most illustrious men of the time: Jefferson, Franklin, John Dickinson, Timothy Pickering, Thomas McKean, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and others, and many important affairs of state have been discussed under the old trees at Stenton, where, on one occasion, Washington was a guest. In 1798, when war was imminent between the United States and France, influenced by a patriotic desire to preserve peace, he visited that country, hoping by his representations to induce the government to adopt such just and liberal measures, as might prevent hostilities. He went as a private citizen, at his own expense, by his own will, and on his own responsibility. He took with him from the French Consul here, letters to Talleyrand and to Merlin, the chief member of the Directory. He had interviews with them, and was

successful. The embargo was removed, American prisoners were released, other concessions made, and war averted. He went clothed with no official authority, but his conduct was approved by Governor McKean and by Mr. Jefferson, who each gave him a letter, bearing testimony to his character and social position. He was denounced in strong terms by the partisans of the day, for thus, without authority, intermeddling with the foreign affairs of the nation, and not without reason, so far as the censure was applied to his act, and not to his motives. In 1799, Congress passed a law to prohibit in future, any one from holding intercourse with foreign governments, to influence their relations with the United States. Notwithstanding this law, Dr. Logan went to England, on a similar errand in 1810, and notwithstanding the law also, he went with the approbation of Mr. Madison, then President, who gave him letters of introduction to eminent persons abroad. He was not so successful on this, as on the previous occasion, but he derived much advantage from his visit, having enjoyed the acquaintance and society of many distinguished men, among them, Sir Samuel Romilly, Wilberforce, Thomas Clarkson, Mr. Coke of Holkham, the Duke of Bedford, and the Marquis of Wellesley. In an obituary notice of Dr. Logan, Mr. Walsh very justly says of him: "Whatever diversity of opinion may exist, as to the merits of his political career, during his official term, or the efficacy of his political exertions at any period, there can be but one sentiment, with regard to the excellence of his intentions, and the elevation of his views."

His widow, Mrs. Deborah Logan, survived him for ighteen years. As a history of old Germantown would e imperfect that did not include some notice of Stenton, o, in speaking of that place, it would be improper to mit all reference to this estimable lady, who was for so nany years its brightest ornament, and whose life, whilst hiefly devoted to the duties and affections of home, was lso sufficiently connected with public topics to make it f general interest. No one who knew her, will accuse ne of exaggeration when I say that she was remarkable or mental endowments and moral virtues. She lived hrough the Revolution, she saw its beginning, the long gony of the contest, the triumph of its close, the prosperity and happiness that followed; she was well acquainted with many of the men who laid the foundations of the nation, and in habits of frequent intercourse with them; she therefore sympathized in the eventful fortunes of the war and the great public measures of the time, with eager and intelligent interest. Her memory was stored with recollections of that grand and heroic period and her conversation enriched with personal anecdotes and descriptions of its exciting scenes and eminent men. The archives of her own and her husband's family, made her also familiar with details of colonial history not to be found in books. She collected and preserved them with care, copied many valuable papers with her own hand, among others the correspondence between James Logan and William Penn, and these, with some interesting memoirs written by herself, are now in the Philadelphia Library, and the repositories of the American Philoso-

phical and Pennsylvania Historical Societies. Of the more private and domestic virtues of this lady, of her unaffected and unostentatious piety and benevolence, her wide and genial sympathies, her genuine kindness of heart in all relations, I cannot on such an occasion as this speak at length; but there are some now present who I am sure retain, as I do, a vivid recollection of her animated, benign, and venerable countenance; her cheerful, cordial, and gracious manners of the old school; the charms of her conversation, and the beauty of her daily life. She died at Stenton on the 2d of February, 1839, and was buried there in the family graveyard.

It remains to say a word of Germantown as it now exists. Steam, which has made so many changes elsewhere, has greatly altered its aspect since the good old times. In 1832 it was connected by a railroad with the city, and this gave the first decided impulse that pushed it off from the habits and characteristics of the past. The railroad enabled men of business to attend to their affairs in town, and at the same time enjoy the pleasures of a rural residence. Multitudes were thus liberated from the imprisonment of the streets. The same cause has operated in other places, and has created the taste for villa and suburban life, now happily so general, and adorned the neighborhood of all our large cities with beautiful country homes. In all the quiet lanes around Germantown and among the picturesque hills, villas and cottages of every variety of taste and cost, with gardens, lawns and embowering trees, have suddenly

prung into existence. Another railroad, as yet worked by horse-power, on the Germantown turnpike, added last year greatly to the convenience of intercourse with the city. This increase of wealth and population has given to the village all the luxuries and accommodation of town. It has now water-works and gas-works, and shops of every variety are rapidly displacing the old-fashioned country stores on the main street. They are displacing too the old residences, though a few, such as Dr. Johnson's, Haines's, Mr. John Wister's, and Miss Morris's, shaded by fine trees and surrounded by spacious grounds, are still left to maintain the ancient rural character of the place. But these are doomed. The city is gradually stretching out its long arms to inclose them in the net, of what speculators in lots call improvement; the land rises annually in value, and ere long they, like Cliveden and Stenton, will fall under the sway of that remorseless destroyer of old trees, old houses and old associations, King Cash. On the lanes, however, now called streets, villas and cottages will hold their own, and Germantown continue to be for many years what Penn wished to make Philadelphia, "a green country town."

A hundred years is a short period in the life of a nation. It sometimes happens that a man lives for a hundred years. Nevertheless, so cabined and cribbed are we in the ever-shifting walls of the present, so feeble are our powers to glance, either into a distant future or a distant past, that things a hundred years old, already begin to look dim, and to assume the character of myths.

We cannot keep hold of realities, which rapidly become ideas and fading recollections. The present in which we live and act, the immediate future which contains our little plans and hopes, engross our sympathies and thoughts, and the past, it exists on the shelves of libraries, in old coins and inscriptions, in the crumbling walls of ancient buildings, and exists in these only for the student, and even to him, the records of former years are a dim image, a suggestion or a hint, rather than a full picture.

But the present is a product of the past. The actual year, day, hour, are blossoms and fruits growing on the tree of humanity, whose roots the centuries have nourished. As an atom of matter represents the forces of the universe, and is related to the laws that presided over

"The early genesis of things,"

so to-day, is the result of all previous days, and takes form and color from what was done in forgotten ages, in Egypt, Palestine, Greece, Rome, Europe, mediæval and modern, by warriors and statesmen, priests, poets and philosophers, men of science and men of trade, down to the events of yesterday. The past, therefore, never dies, but is always revived, like matter, in new and fugitive forms of men and nations, governments, laws, and arts; leaves and flowers, all of them, of that mysterious plant man, which lives and grows with perennial vigor amid apparent decay. Man lives though men die, after having opened their eyes for a time on a phantom world.

"We are such stuff
As dreams are made of, and our little life
Is rounded by a sleep."

A hundred years have passed away since the walls of ur school-house were erected. In Europe they would augh at us for calling it old. Nothing there is old that as not at least the wrinkles and gray hair of the middle ges. Europe has an antiquity, Europe is historical, and he traveller there may gaze at castles and cathedrals nspired by Gothic genius, may sit under the domes of emples where the gods of Greece and Rome were wor- hipped, may tread the arena once wet with the blood of gladiators, may walk under arches through which once treamed the pomp of Roman triumphs, or fill his soul vith images of beauty and the inspiration of art, from narbles touched into life and thought by the hands of Phidias or Praxiteles. We have nothing old here but he hills and the rivers, the lakes and Niagara, which vas waking the echoes of the forest, and throwing up ainbow-tinted mist to the sky, when Cæsar crossed the Rubicon, and when Miltiades beat back the Persians at Marathon. We are a new nation, and it is not long since he plough of civilization first broke the soil of our ountry. Our little school-house is older than our go- vernment, and its bell has tolled all the hours since the annon at Bunker Hill first sounded the tocsin of Inde- pendence. Yet, short as that time is, how filled has it been with events, how wondrous and varied the fruits which the great tree of humanity has borne during that brief period!

Since the corner-stones of our school-house were laid a Christian, civilized power has been erected on this side of the Atlantic, which has already taken equal rank among the other powers of the world. In Europe, the period has been crowded with events of deep meaning and interest. Within it lies the wonderful drama of the French Revolution, in its two acts of the Republic and the Empire. Whilst our school-bell was tolling quiet hours, its tragic scenes swept across the stage, startling the world with their vivid display of guilt and glory magnificence and misery. This portentous pageant riveted the gaze of men for twenty-five years, and whatever man can do or endure, of wretchedness, of heroism or of crime, was done and suffered in Europe during that time. It has passed away into silence and darkness, with its demagogues and mobs, its murdering committees and official butchers, its guillotines and dungeons of unspeakable horror; its roar of battle and shouts of victory; its upstart throne; its Austerlitz and Marengo carnage and glory; its Russian and Waterloo defeats. Nature has her moral as well as her physical convulsions.

> "If plagues and earthquakes break not heaven's design,
> Why then a *Bonaparte* or Catiline?"

Out of the evil good is produced. Society is a volcano, whose central fires pour forth at times torrents of destruction. But the lava fertilizes and afterwards on it grow, the sustaining harvest and the joyous vintage. Europe had become barren and hidebound, matted over

with dead forms, and obsolete ideas, and some rending and tearing process was necessary to let in the air, water, and light of heaven, upon the ground beneath the surface. The Revolution, like a prairie plough, overturned this rubbish of centuries, broke through the hard pan of custom and prescription, and opened to the roots of healthy vegetation, the rich soil below.

The century has, however, been bountiful in other products. Science has made discoveries in the mysterious realm of Nature, and the Arts have increased the powers and multiplied the comforts and accommodations of man. They seem almost to have created material existence anew, so much have they enlarged its means and resources. Cotton and coal, the steam-engine, the railroad, the telegraph, the reaper,—what manifold images of wealth, enjoyment and convenience, of victorious industry and unbounded scope are connected with their names. How wonderfully have they converted the great forces of Nature into the servants of man, and made him the master of the outside world around him. Triumphs have also been won in more spiritual fields. A brilliant and varied literature has been the growth of the century, which has added to the illustrious names of the past, writers who have made the world better and pleasanter, and shed upon it the Divine light of truth and beauty. Recall but the most prominent of these noble spirits to your minds, and think what benign power they have exerted to guide the thoughts, enlarge the knowledge, awaken the sensibilities, and enrich the intellect of the age; how many else weary days they

have cheered, how much sorrow comforted, how many hours of pure and calm delight bestowed. All this has come into existence since our school-house was roofed in. Truly, this performance of the century is a goodly mansion to dwell in, with many and stately halls and beautiful saloons, glowing with the splendors of wealth, and gay with the graceful decorations of art.

Nevertheless, let us not exult in it overmuch. There was a kind Providence for the world before. Our ancestors were useful and happy without railroads and telegraphs. Man's life does not consist in the abundance of things that he possesses, nor do we live by bread alone. Our highest happiness is in the ideal and invisible, our true life the life of the soul. The external is its transient and temporary abode. Every age has its own development of material activity, and in the remotest periods there were great cities, filled with luxury and splendor, equalling or surpassing those of modern civilization. Whether it be a pyramid or a steamer, a Roman aqueduct or a London dock, the Appian way or a railroad across the prairie, the constructing mind is the same, the manifestation different. In our rich and abundant literature we find also change of form, prolific growth and diversified application, rather than creation. An original mind, a fountain of new ideas, is a rare gift of nature to the world. As a species of aloe is said to bloom once only in a hundred years, so the tree of humanity puts forth the flower of a great intellect at long intervals. The ancient world lived on Homer, Plato, and Aristotle for many centuries; the modern has not

yet filled the scope of Shakspeare and Bacon. Our ancestors were not famished for want of intellectual food, and, notwithstanding the beauty, the variety and the bounty of modern literature, we may say of it what Chaucer said five hundred years ago:

"Out of the old fields, as men saith,
Cometh all this new corn fro year to year,
And out of old books, in good faith,
Cometh all this new knowledge that men lere."

If the changes and progress of modern civilization have been more apparent than real, the evil it has not overcome and the evil it has produced, prove that man is still the same and the conditions of his being unaltered. In the politics of Europe despotism still holds its own. War, which many have prophesied would disappear before the light of Christianity and knowledge, has now as many votaries as ever among rulers and people. It has become more destructive than before, because men now fight with improved machinery. New mechanical inventions and enormous increase of production have brought with them the curse of pauperism, crowded prisons and poor-houses, and dangerous relations between capital and labor. Cotton has its slaves, not in our Southern States alone, and that untiring worker, the steam-engine, is waited on by want and hopeless toil. Commerce is looking with greedy eyes upon the inferior races of mankind. It has subjugated and exhausted India; it hungers for China and Japan. Even the printing press, which spreads abroad the illumination of

science and the ennobling pleasures of mind, pours also dangerous error and moral poison through a thousand channels upon society. In spite of Christianity, its purer moral sentiment and higher standard of duty, frightful social evils prevail and increase in our cities, and the world still permits the Slave-trade and the Coolie-trade. In our own country, the spirit and energy of the people have strewed the land with towns, covered it with railroads, and made it the scene of material prosperity, unequalled in the rapidity of its growth and the extent of its diffusion. Nevertheless, as a nation we are sick. Corruption is undermining our Government and the Union, upon which all depends,—within the last three months, town-meetings have been called to preserve it!

Notwithstanding then the dazzling show of achievement made by the last hundred years, when asked to-day, What of the clock? how shall we answer? Must we not say that man, notwithstanding his new aids and inventions, is still the same erring, struggling, aspiring being, striving in vain to free himself from the entanglements of earth; that the battle between truth and falsehood, right and wrong, is still renewed with doubtful fortunes; that good and evil are, as before, inextricably twisted in the threads of human fate; and that, not in this world of the sinning and the suffering, the weak, the vanquished and the dying, can man find his true sphere and the fulfilment of his destiny.

It would be presumptuous to attempt to raise the curtain that covers the future. What changes may occur

Europe and America; what new arts science may reate to alter the physical condition of society; what ars and revolutions may control the relations and owers of States, no one can foresee. From the mightier orces now in action, we may well believe that the next undred years will be even more fruitful than the last. But judging from that and a still more distant past, I enture to predict that if another centennial anniversary f our school be celebrated, the orator then will unite vith me in saying, as the wise man said when the world vas young: "The thing that hath been, it is that which hall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be lone, and there is no new thing under the sun."

Germantown Academy.

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, APRIL, 1860.

Teachers.

JAMES H. WITHINGTON, A.M., PRINCIPAL,
TEACHER OF CLASSICAL DEPARTMENT.

F. L. WILDER,
TEACHER OF THE INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT.

J. LLEWELLYN WOOD,
TEACHER OF THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Students.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Armstrong, Edward	Germantown.
Armstrong, James	"
Barrows, William	Nicetown.
Barry, Edward	Germantown.
Bayard, James	"
Birchall, Edward R.	"
Bordan, Francis S.	"
Brooks, Matthew W.	"
Brooks, Winfield S.	"
Butcher, Sylvanus	"
Butler, Edgar H.	"

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Cabeen, Francis V.	Germantown.
Chase, William H.	"
Childs, William L.	"
Churchman, William B.	"
Coulter, Levi	"
Cuza, Manuel	St. Jago de Cuba.
Doan, Howard L.	Germantown.
Doan, James E.	"
Dunn, Thomas F.	Philadelphia.
Dunn, Vincent	"
Earp, Charles G.	Chestnut Hill.
Earp, William	"
Emhardt, William H.	Germantown.
Evans, Dorrance	Milestown.
Firth, Austin M.	Germantown.
Garrett, E. F.	"
Garrett, James W.	"
Garrett, Willis A.	"
Gibbs, Josiah W.	"
Giro, Edilberts	St. Jago de Cuba.
Glackin, William F.	Germantown.
Godfrey, Samuel T.	"
Goodman, Joseph E.	"
Groves, Anthony P.	Chestnut Hill.
Groves, Frederic S.	"
Groves, Howard	"
Gummere, R. Morris	Germantown.
Hager, Walter F.	"
Haines, Harry	"
Hallowell, Howard	"
Hannabery, Geo. W.	"
Haverstick, Louis M.	"
Haverstick, Edward W.	"
Hernandez, Lorenzo	St. Jago de Cuba.
Heyl, Albert G.	Germantown.
Heyl, Francis	"
Homiller, Henry	Branchtown.
Jackson, Charles	Germantown.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Jackson, Joseph	Germantown.
Jackson, William H.	"
Jones, Edwin	"
Jones, William J.	"
Kenderdine, Frank	"
Kenderdine, Warner J.	"
King, Charles K.	"
Lange, H. O. L.	Puerto Cabello, Venezuela.
Le Boutillier, Robert	Germantown.
Le Boutillier, Edward	"
Le Brun, Lajus P.	"
Lewis, Perey M.	"
Logan, Albanus C.	"
Mason, George W.	"
McClure, T. Russel	"
McCullagh, William	"
Merchant, Geo. W., Jr.,	"
McIlhenny, William	"
McIntyre, S. Maxwell	"
Mitchell, Joseph B.	"
Mitchell, William F.	"
Moore, William	Wissahickon.
Morton, Algernon	Germantown.
Morton, Charles M.	"
Neilson, Robert	"
Patterson, Theodore C.	"
Pequerno, Pedro	Havana.
Pomeroy, Clarence	Germantown.
Potter, Charles S.	"
Potter, Joseph K.	"
Potter, Matthew C.	"
Potts, Austin	"
Price, Charles S.	"
Price, Philip H.	"
Reed, Harry H.	Philadelphia.
Redles, Henry	Germantown.
Reichert, John H.	"
Richards, James H.	"

NAME.	RESIDENCE.
Rodriguez, Rodrigo	St. Jago de Cuba.
Roop, William H.	Germantown.
Rowland, Joseph	"
Rowlett, William	Nicetown.
Scott, Charles Henry	Germantown.
Scott, Charles L.	"
Scott, Edward W.	"
Scott, John C.	"
Sellers, Charles B.	"
Senat, Norwood P.	"
Schaffer, George A.	"
Schaeffer, W. Ashmead	"
Shewell, W. M., Jr.,	"
Shoenberger, Edwin P.	"
Shoenberger, George K.	"
Shoenberger, John	"
Smith, Robert S.	"
Spencer, Charles H.	"
Stocker, John C.	"
Tarr, Henry C.	"
Thomas, William H.	"
Van Dyke, Albert	"
Van Dyke, James C.	"
Walker, James D.	Mount Airy.
Ward, S. Lindsey	Germantown.
Warner, Edward	"
Wile, William C.	Pleasant Valley, N. Y.
Wister, Rodman	Germantown.
Withington, Geo. J.	"
Withington, J. H., Jr.,	"
Wood, George H.	Rockland, Maine.
Wright, William R.	Germantown.

GERMANTOWN ACADEMY.

This Institution is under the charge of the subscriber, who has had many years' experience in the instruction of youth.

He would take occasion to assure his patrons, that his exertions to promote the interests of those placed under his care will be unremitting.

Instruction is given in all the branches of a *thorough* English and Classical Education, and students will be prepared for any of the classes of College.

Special care will be taken that the instruction be duly apportioned to the various studies pursued, and that every principle involved in each recitation be thoroughly impressed upon the mind. A little well learned is better than a large amount superficially acquired.

Parents are respectfully and cordially invited to co-operate with the teachers in encouraging and securing a proper amount of study at home, and prompt and uninterrupted attendance upon all the duties of school; without this, no high degree of excellence can be attained.

No pupil will be retained whose habits and deportment may be injurious to the interests of the school.

The Academy is furnished with a well-selected apparatus, embracing every article essential to a complete illustration of the elementary principles of Chemistry and Natural Philosophy. It is also furnished with Outline Maps, Historical Charts, &c.

The Academic Year is divided into two sessions, of five months each, commencing on the first of September, and the first of February, respectively.

Terms.

For Reading, Spelling, Defining, Geography, Elementary Arithmetic and Writing, per session, ...	$20 00
The above branches, including Grammar and Higher Arithmetic, .	25 00
Algebra, Geometry, Philosophy, Chemistry, Bookkeeping, Latin, Greek, &c., ...	30 00

Bills payable one half at the middle, and the balance at the end of the Session.

German and French, extra.

The Principal will receive a limited number of pupils into his family.

Terms for Board and Tuition, $200 per Year.

J. H. WITHINGTON, M. A.